



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hideaki YAMANAKA et al.

Application No.: 09/944,193

Filed: September 4, 2001

Docket No.: 110538

For: MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM AND MAGNETIC RECORDING APPARATUS

**THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT/RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES  
REQUIREMENT**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir: .

In reply to the January 10, 2003 Office Action, and prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Please amend Figures 12 and 13, and add Figure 18 as set forth in the attached Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0005] as follows:

[0005] The known technique for improving the thermal stability of the magnetic disk, especially a magnetic disk having magnetization in the in-plane direction include a method in which a so-called keeper layer having soft magnetization is provided as an underlying base layer for a recording layer, and a method in which a layer having magnetization in a direction opposite to that of magnetization of a recording layer is provided. As one of the latter method, a technique is disclosed in a literature of E. N. Abarra

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